

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5951

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 266

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 0365

EXDIS

MOSCOW FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, US, LE, SY

SUBJECT: ASAD'S POLITICAL ADVISOR URGES FURTHER USG STATEMENT
OPPOSING PARTITION IN LEBANON

1. PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL ADVISOR DAOUDI, COMMENTING
TO ME JANUARY 22 ABOUT DETERIORATING LEBANESE
CIRCUMSTANCES, URGED THAT USG MAKE NEW AND MORE
CATEGORIC STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO PARTITION OF
LEBANON.

2. DAOUDI NOTED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, BOTH VATICAN
AND FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN MORE CATEGORIC THAN
USG IN DENOUNCING PARTITION CONCEPT. OUR STATEMENTS
HAD BEEN GENERALLY IN CONTEXT OF ANSWERING JOURNALISTS'
QUESTIONS AND LACKED CATEGORIC QUALITY OF THOSE
ISSUED BY PARIS AND HOLY SEE. WITH HIS CUSTOMARY
HEAVY URBANITY, HE SUGGESTED THAT WHILE STATE DEPT

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MIGHT BE OPPOSED TO PARTITION, "ONE NEVER KNOWS ABOUT

CIA'S POSITION." THEN REFERRED TO RAYMOND EDDE'S MOST RECENT ASSERTION WE FAVORED PARTITION. I SAID I SPOKE FOR ENTIRE US GOVERNMENT IN TELLING HIM WE CATEGORICALLY OPPOSED PARTITION.

3. ADDED THAT OUR POSITION HAD BEEN MADE AMPLY AND REPEATEDLY CLEAR IN RECENT WEEKS. DESCRIBED RAYMOND EDDE AS LIAR FOR CONTINUING ATTRIBUTE TO HIS "OFFICIAL AMERICAN CONTACTS" THAT USG FAVORED PARTITION. DAOUDI SAID IT WAS JUST BECAUSE EDDE WAS CONTINUING MAKE THESE ALLEGATIONS THAT HE THOUGHT WASHINGTON SHOULD RESTATE ITS POSITION. SAID I WOULD ALSO CONVEY HIS SUGGESTION AND WOULD MEANWHILE SEND HIM COLLECTION OF OUR RECENT STATEMENTS, INCLUDING THAT SISCO HAD JUST MADE ON "FACE THE NATION" JANUARY 21.

4. COMMENT: WHILE SYRIAN CAPACITY TO SUSPECT US IS BOUNDLESS AND DEPARTMENT MAY FEEL WE ARE ALREADY AMPLY ON RECORD ON THIS ISSUE, I NONETHELESS RECOMMEND SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO DAOUDI'S URGING WE ISSUE FURTHER STATEMENT. HAVE NOTED RECENT INTEL REPORT THAT ARAFAT CONVINCED WE FAVOR PARTITION. SECRETARY'S PRESENCE IN BRUSSELS MIGHT PROVIDE EXCELLENT AND TIMELY PLATFORM FOR STATEMENT. MURPHY

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NNN

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